

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CIAE-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 DODE-00

(ISO) W

----- 095340

R 231030Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

TO SEXSTATE WASHDC 4830

INFO AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

USINT BAGHDAD

S E C R E T ABU DHABI 2294

EXDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR NEA/ARP

DEPARTMENT PASS BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: GDS FPOR, TC,

TAGS : MASS QA, US, KU, BA

SUBJECT : GULF STATES--MILITARY RELATIONSHIP WITH US

REF: (A) DOHA 863, (B) TEHRAN 8443

1. WE SHARE, AS WE HAVE SAID IN EARLIER MESSAGES, EMBASSY DOHA'S BASIC VIEW THAT TIME HAS COME TO TAKE NEW LOOK AT OUR ARMS POLICY (SUPPLY, TRAINING, ETC.) TOWARDS LOWER GULF. TIMES INDEED ARE CHANGING. WE CANNOT DENY EXISTENCE OF GROWING APPETITE FOR NEW MILITARY HARDWARE ON PART OF LOWER GULF STATES, NOR CAN WE CONVINCINGLY CLAIM THIS APPETITE IS TOTALLY UNREASONABLE. UAE TOO HAS
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DIMINSHING NUMBER OF HAWKER HUNTERS OF ANCIENT VINTAGE.

HERE, MIRAGES HAVE BEEN BROUGHT IN TO FILL THAT VOID
AND IT
CERTAINLY IS NO SURPRISE THAT QATAR IS THINKING
ALONG SIMILAR LINES, PARTICULARLY TOWARD TRIED AND
TRUE F-5S THAT WE HAVE NOT ONLY SOLD TO EVERYONE BUT
SPECIFICALLY RECOMMENDED TO MANY UNDERDEVELOPED STATES
AS SIMPLE, EASY-TO-MAINTAIN AIRCRAFT.

2. THAT HAVING BEEN SAID, WE SHARE EMBASSY TEHRAN'S
RESERVATION ABOUT USG TAKING ACTIVE LEAD IN SPONYVRING
REGIONAL COORDINATION IN AREAS OF SUPPLY, TRAINING,
ETC. THIS IS NOT TO SAY WE SHOULD BE TOTALLY PASSIVE.
IT STRIKES US FOR EXAMPLE THAT IT WOULD BE ENTIRELY
APPROPRIATE, CONSISTENT WITH OUR DESIRE TO EXERCISE
DEGREE OF RESTRAINT EVEN WHILE BEING SELECTIVELY
RESPONSIVE, TO BRIEF SAUDI ARABIA AND IRAN AS TO
REASONS BEHIND OUR DECISION TO APPROVE A GIVEN SALE
TO ONE OF SMALLER AREA STATHS. WE WOULD BE DEMON-
STRATING OUR REGIONAL APPROACH AND REMINDING ALL
THOSE GOVERNMENTS OF OUR POLICY AXIOM THAT WE LOOK
PRIMARILY TO IRAN AND SAUDI ARABIA TO MAINTAIN
SECURITY IN REGION.

3. BRIEFING OF OUR MAIN REGIONAL SECURITY PARTNERS
ALONG THESE LINES WOULD BE ONE THING, BUT TO GO
FURTHER, AS EMBASSY DOHA'S MESSAGE SEEMS TO SUGGEST,
AND INVOLVE THESE GOVERNMENTS IN ALL OF OUR ARMS
SALES DECISION IN AREA WOULD IN OUR VIEW ADD FURTHER
COMPLICATIONS TO ALREADY VERY COMPLICATED PROCESS THAT
USG GOES THROUGH TO REACH DECISIONSETQQRMS SALES. WE
WOULD BE STIRRING INTO POT THE ADDITIONAL ELEMENT OF
BIG-BROTHERISM WHICH LARGER STATES FEEL TOWARD SMALLER
FRY OF THIS AREA WITH NET EFFECT WE FEAR, OF MAKING
IT EVEN MORE DIFFICULT THAN IT IS AT PRESENT TO COME
TO POSITIVE DECISIONS ON ARMS REQUESTS WHEN WE OUR-
SELVES FEEL THEY ARE LEGITIMATE. AS IT EFFECTS SPECIFIC
ARMS REQUESTS, TEMPTATION ON PART OF JIDDA AND TEHRAN
TO SAY, "THAT'S NOT NECESSARY; WE CAN HANDLE REGIONAL
SECURITY PROBLEMS OURSELVES" WILL BE DIFFICULT FOR
THOSE GOVERNMENTS TO RESIST. ON OTHER HAND ALTERNA-
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TIVE SITUATION IS ALSO POSSIBLE WHEREBY WE COULD COME
UNDER ADDITIONAL PRESSURE TO PROVIDE SOMENFORM OF
WEAPONRY TO ONE OF THESE STATES BECAUSE OF DESIRE OF
THEIR LARGER PATRONS TO CURRY FAVOR WITH THEM
IKFKOFXMSLHER #
CASE, WE SEE OUR OWN FREEDOM OF ACTION IN THIS
CONTENTIOUS POLICY AREA AS BEING FURTHER CIRCUMSCRIBED,
AND WE ARE NOT SURE THIS IS GOOD IDEA. IN SHORTT

WE THINK THAT REGIONAL COORDINATION HAS TO DEVELOP
LARGELY FROM WITHIN AND THAT WE SHOULD EXPECT SMALLER
STATES TO WISH RETAIN LARGE ELEMENT OF FREEDOM TO
MAKE THEIR OWB FINAL DECISIONS ON THESE MATTERS FOR
SOME TIME TO COME.
STERNER

NOTE BY OCT: # AS RECEIVED; CORRECTION TO FOLLOW.

SECRET

NNN

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